

Senate Bill 136
March 3, 2011
Presented by Joe Maurier
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Joe Maurier, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to informationally.

We certainly understand the desire of many Montanans who were born here to be able to return and hunt the state's wild resources. However, SB136 presents a number of issues.

It is relatively easy to get a fake birth certificate that from all appearances is a bone fide document. Our staff would have no way to verify the authenticity of a birth certificate as Montana law prohibits anyone other than certain individuals from having access to that information directly (50-15-121 MCA; 37.8.126 ARM). We annually prosecute a substantial number of cases of residency fraud attesting to the temptation some would have to commit fraud.

The last issue is price. Is twice the resident rate fair?